LOK SABHA

Friday, March 27, 1992/Chaitra 7, 1914 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of two of our former colleagues Dr. Sankata Prasad and Shri Brij Basi Lal

Dr. Prasad was a Member of the Fourth, Fifth and Eighth Lok Sabha during 1967-70, 1971-77 and 1984-89 respectively, representing Misrikh constituency of Uttar adesh. He had also been a Member of the ajya Sabha during 1982-84.

During his long parliamentary career, he took keen interest in the proceedings of the House and never lost opportunity to raise matters relating to upliftment of weaker sections of the society. He was a Member of the Committee on Public Undertakings during 1985-86.

Dr. Prasad was a homeopathic medical practitioner and took keen interest in homeopathic medical science and study of socialist literature.

Dr. Prasad passed away on 19th March 1992 at Sitapur in Uttar Pradesh at the age of about 65 years.

Shri Brij Lal was a Member of the Third Lok Sabha during 1962-67 representing Faizabad constituency of Uttar Pradesh Earlier he had been a Member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly during 1952-62 where he also served on various financial Committees.

A veteran freedom fighter, he actively participated in ' Quit India Movement' and suffered imprisonment. He was awarded *Tamra Patra* in recognition of his services to the nation.

Shri Brij Basi Lal was a well-known social and political worker. He worked very hard for the eradication of untouchability and other social evils.

An able parliamentarian, he actively participated in the proceedings of the House and made valuable contribution thereto.

Shri Lal passed away on 19th March, 1992 at Faizabad at the age of 88 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

11.04 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Rubber Production

*429. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rubber produced during 1990-91, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken to increase its production and to attain self-sufficiency?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b). A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The Quantity of rubber produced during 1990-91, State-wise is as under:-

State/Union Territory	*Production (Metric Tonnes)*
Kerala	307,521
Tamil Nadu	13,645
Karnataka	6,665
Tripura	1,066
Assam	100
Maghalaya	40
Mizoram	4
Manipur	10
Arunachal Pradesh	10
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	453
Goa	
Maharashtra	4
	329,615

(b) The following Measures are now being implemented by the Rubber Board to enhance production of natural rubber:

(1) Granting Financial and technical assistance for new planting and replanting under Rubber Plantation Development Scheme.

(2) Producing and distributing high yielding planting materials.

(3) Rendering advisory, extension and training services.

(4) Encouraging community processing and marketing among small holders.

(5) Undertaking research on cultivation, production and processing of rubber.

SHRI N. DENNIS: Sir, may I know the quantum of gap between indigenous production and also the demand from the rubber-based industries? I would also like to know the approximate period when we could be able to achieve self-sufficiency and whether there is shortfall in the stock of rubber.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: In the year 1990-91, the estimated production was 329, 615 MTs. of rubber and the consumption was 364, 310 MTs. This is an estimated figure and not the final figure. In 1991-92 the estimated figure of production is 365 thousand tonnes as against an estimated consumption figure of 380 thousand tonnes. However, we expect that in the next ten years by 1989-99 the production figure will cross the figure of consumption. But beyond 1999 and up to the year 2000, the consumption figure will increase once again marginally. At present, we have fairly good stock available and the stock carry-over estimated surplus at the end of the year will be 21000 tonnes.

SHRI N. DENNIS: Regarding the last question about the buffer stock, there is a fall in recent months. My second supplementary is that the rubber tree is often attacked with a leaf falling disease. The cost of production of rubber in our country is higher than that of Sri Lanka and Malaysia. And also per unit production of rubber is also higher than these two countries. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, to intensify production and

to catch up with the demand, whether the Government would step up subsidies, loans and other assistance to the rubber growers of traditional and non-traditional areas by a special programme for intensive production.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: We have a capital Subsidy Scheme which provides assistance at the rate of Rs. 5000 per hectare to small holders owning up to five hectares of land. This is in traditional area. And all growers in non-traditional area are provided assistance under this Subsidy Scheme. In addition, we have an additional assistance scheme for use of high yielding polybag plants at the rate of Rs. 6 per plant subject, of course, to a maximum of Rs. 2,700 per hectare. This is available to all growers irrespective of whether they are in traditional or in non-traditional areas. Thirdly, we have an interest Rate Subsidy Scheme of three per cent on loans availed from the Financial institutions by growers owning up to five hectares of rubber in traditional areas and to all growers in the non-traditional areas. In addition, a three-pronged strategy has been worked out along the following loans which includes expansion of the area under rubber cultivation, speeding up of replantation of the old and low yielding variety with modern and high yie lding variety, raising of productivity of existing plantation by popularising the adoption of modern technology in plant protection and manuring of harvest and all crop harvest.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the total area under rubber cultivation with the Rubber Board and whether there are some plantations in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands where for the last two to three years, there has been no milk collection done. Though you have given number of points to increase the production yet you are not in a position to collect the milk from the existing plantations. How wil you be able to do justice. That is why, I would like to know specifically whether you will go into this matter and take corrective measures.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: The production figure for 1990-91 for the Andaman and Nicobar Islandr was 453 tonnes of rubber. We treat the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as a non-traditional..

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: The Rubber Board is aiso having a plantation. They are not collecting the milk.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: The basic responsibility of the Rubber Board is to ensure that there is suitable market for rubber that is grown and the rubber that is collected by private planters. If the hon. Member has any scheme in his mind which will help the Andaman and Nicobar Islands..

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: My point is, Rubber Board is having a plantation by themselves. They are managing and maintaining it. They have done it. But they are not collecting the milk..

(*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER: You please reply to the original question only.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Sir, I do not have the figures at present of what the Rubber Board has in hand relating to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. I will certainly provide that figure to the hon. Member. But in addition to that, if the hon. Member can bring to us any specific problems that are arising in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, we will take immediate steps to set them right.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are only 12 states and Union Territories in the country where rubber is produced. Keeping in view the rubber requirements, may I know from the hon. Minister, whether the government proposes to produce rubber in the states where t is not produced?

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI Such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED So far, our policy has been to identify the areas where the production of rubber is low and it can be raised Therefore, our policy is to increase it as soon as possible In addition to these rubber producing states, we are ready for cultivation of rubber in those State s also where the land is available to us acquisition of land from the farmers and to produce rubber in that land are not an easy task If the hon Member has got any such information and land is available in some State which can be acquired easily, we will surely consider it

Grants to states

*430 SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the amount of grants given to States during 1991 92 State wise,

(b) whether the amount given to the Uttar Pradesh has been much lower than requested for

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE) (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House as Annexure-I

(b) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House as Annexure II

ANNEXURE-I

Grants provided to states during 1991-92

Special Category States	*(Rs in Crores)*
1 Arunachal Pradesh	274 04
2 Assam	912 92
3 Himachal Pradesh	407.58
4 Jammu & Kashmir	869 46
5 Manipur	247 62
6 Meghalaya	203 43
7 Mizoram	217 23
8 Nagaland	242 48
9 Sikkim	98 41
10 Tripura	278 10
Total (I)	3751 37
II Non Special Category States	
1 Andhra Pradesh	345 07
2 Bihar	515 66
3 Goa	49 00
4 Gujarat	196 53
5 Haryana	53.75
6 Karnataka	185 22
7 Kerala	226.64
8 Madhay Pradesh	388.67
9 Maharashtra	264.66
10 Orissa	340.49
11 Punjab	103 78